



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KC MAN SENTENCED IN COCAINE CONSPIRACY

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City man was sentenced in federal court today for his role in a conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine in Jackson County, Mo.

Roger Simms, 58, of Kansas City, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Ortrie D. Smith this morning to five years and 10 months in federal prison without parole.

On Feb. 3, 2003, **Roger Simms** pleaded guilty to four counts of distributing crack cocaine. On the same date, his son, **Leonard Simms**, 32, also of Kansas City, pleaded guilty to two counts of distributing crack cocaine. **Leonard Simms** is awaiting sentencing.

A third defendant also has been convicted in this case and is awaiting sentencing.

Clarence J. Walton, 33, of Kansas City, Mo., was convicted by a federal jury on March 19, 2003, for his role as the supplier in the conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine from his home, less than a block from Center Elementary School.

Walton was found guilty of one count of conspiracy to distribute 50 grams or more of crack cocaine in Jackson County from Jan. 14, to Feb. 14, 2002, and one count of possession with intent to distribute 50 grams or more of crack cocaine in Jackson County on Feb. 14, 2002.

Evidence presented during **Walton's** trial related a series of six undercover drug buys in less than a month in which he was the supplier, Graves said. In each case, an agent with the Jackson County Drug Task Force was taken to **Walton's** residence at 1810 E. 85th Street, Kansas City, Mo., to deliver payment for crack cocaine and receive the drug. A total of more than 40 grams of crack cocaine was purchased during these six transactions between Jan. 14 and Feb. 12, 2003.

Graves explained that the undercover agent first approached co-defendants **Leonard**

Simms and **Roger Simms**, who were living together in a room at the Sports Stadium Motel, 9803 E. Highway 40, Independence, Mo. The undercover agent was eventually transported by one of the **Simms** to **Walton's** residence to complete a drug transaction.

Following that series of undercover drug buys, officers obtained a search warrant for **Walton's** residence, a rented home near the intersection of 85th Street and The Paseo. In the execution of that search warrant on Feb. 14, 2003, they discovered approximately 56 grams of crack cocaine, approximately 257 grams of marijuana, approximately 2 grams of PCP, various drug paraphernalia, and a .44 caliber Ruger pistol with 14 live rounds of ammunition.

Each of the defendants in this case was initially charged with being involved in the cocaine conspiracy in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Aug. 27, 2002.

As a result of their convictions, **Walton** and **Leonard Simms** each may face a sentence of up to life in federal prison without parole, plus a fine of up to \$10 million. Their sentences will be determined according to the United States Sentencing Guidelines. Sentencing hearings will be scheduled after the completion of presentence investigations by the United States Probation Office.

The case is being prosecuted by U.S. Attorney Todd P. Graves and Assistant U.S. Attorney Gregg R. Coonrod. The case was investigated by the Jackson County Drug Task Force.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow